



# A.T.T.S. Newsletter

The Official Journal Of  
The American Tax Token Society  
ANA C-69092 TAMS 2334

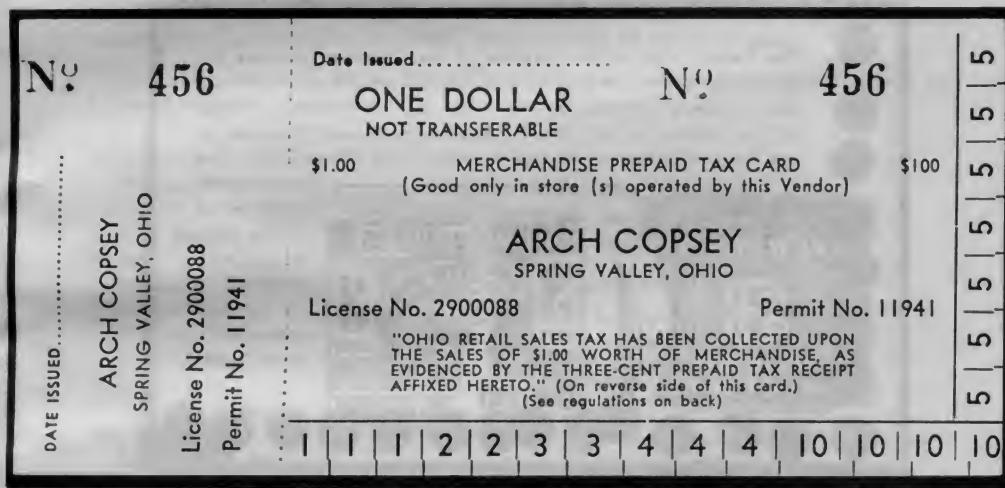
Volume 2, Number 6

January-February, 1973

## Sales Tax Punch Cards: One State's Alternative to Metal Tokens

by Jerry F. Schimmel

(Sections I and III of this article appeared first in the State Revenue Newsletter, November 1971 and March 1972, although they have been edited. Section II was drafted especially for this presentation.



FRONT OF UNISSUED OHIO PRIVATE PUNCH CARD

### Part I: Ohio's Privately Issued Cards

Most sales tax token collectors are familiar enough with the Prepaid Sales Tax Receipts (or "stamps") issued by the State of Ohio. A few know something about the grey, and later orange state issue Prepaid Sales Tax Cards. But one of the least known series associated with Ohio's sales tax collection methods were the private tax cards of 1935-36. The sales tax law had come into being on January 27 of the year and with it the Prepaid Sales Tax Receipts. The receipts served the State the excellent function of 1), being insurance that the state would have some immediately collected funds as all merchants were required to purchase them in advance of the tax actually being collected from the consumer; and 2), by providing the consumer and the state with a receipt for the sales tax that he had

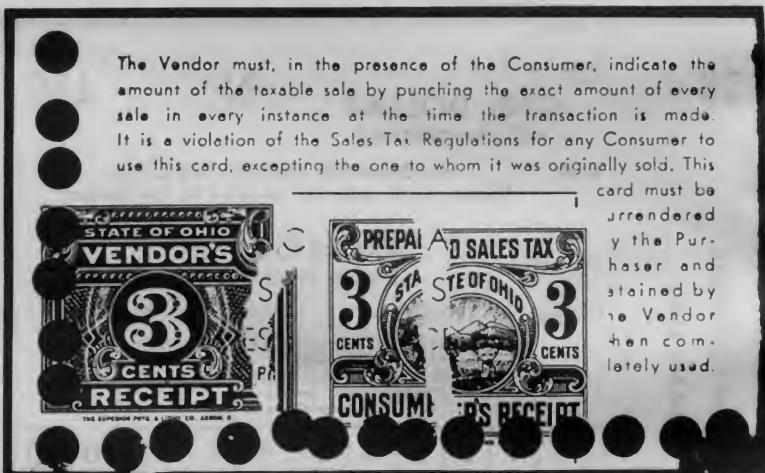
The Vendor must, in the presence of the Consumer, indicate the amount of the taxable sale by punching the exact amount of every sale in every instance at the time the transaction is made. It is a violation of the Sales Tax Regulations for any Consumer to use this card, excepting the one to whom it was originally sold. This

card must be surrendered by the Purchaser and retained by the Vendor when completely used.

ATTACH PREPAID  
VENDOR'S and CONSUMER'S  
SALES TAX RECEIPT  
(Properly Cancelled)

HERE

REVERSE OF UNISSUED OHIO PRIVATE PUNCH CARD



REVERSE OF ISSUED OHIO PRIVATE PUNCH CARD, WITH CANCELLED RECEIPT ATTACHED

paid. This prevented any unscrupulous merchant from accepting the sales tax and not reporting it, since he had to account for the money with the "stubs" (Vendor's Halves) to the state auditor, and had paid it in advance. What happened if the consumer did not bother to accept his receipt is probably another story.

However, the cards served another purpose. They were, in effect, Ohio's SALES TAX TOKENS. That is, they were designed specifically to assist the consumer in paying any fractional cent sales tax that might be due in a transaction, and to avoid making a sales tax overpayment. For example a customer might wish to buy a 10¢ toothbrush, but since the sales tax at that time was 3 percent of the purchase price, the tax due would have been 1/3¢ or three and one-third mills for which

amount there was no U.S. coin in circulation. The customer and merchant were then faced with the prospect of a sales tax payment at a rate of 10% if the customer paid a whole penny. This usually meant that the merchant kept the other six and two-thirds mills for himself. Merchants, consumers, and law-makers, by 1935 had become somewhat sensitive to the overpayment issue, hence the use of Sales Tax punch cards in Ohio and tokens in other states to make the sales tax law more palatable to the public. Thus, each card was purchased by the consumer from the merchant for three cents which amounted to an advance payment of tax on one dollar's future purchases. The card had a number of spaces with denominations in them which added up to 100 (or \$1.00). Therefore, in the case of the man who wanted the 10¢ toothbrush, the clerk simply punched a "10" or two "5"s and there was no overcharge and everybody was theoretically happy. The customer would retain his card, if there were remaining unpunched spaces, for another day's use, or for a purchase at another counter in the same store. When they were completely punched, they were returned to the store and became the merchant's receipt for the state auditor. On the whole Ohio's punch card system was successful in one aspect, in that it avoided the whole controversy of whether sales tax tokens were in violation of the federal coining statutes.

The private cards were usually printed at the merchant's expense and were validated by gluing on the reverse a pair of 3¢ tax receipts in the space designed. The card had a stub which was retained by the merchant and dated at the time of its sale. In size they were 5 1/4 x 2 1/2 inches (including the stub), and were usually white, although many are now faded to a light brown or buff. Ink color was usually blue or black. The private cards tend to be scarce to rare.

**LISTINGS:** Such a list is probably incomplete, since many other business are believed to have used cards.

Akron

Wagner Provision Co.

Bellbrook

M. E. Barnet

Berea

Bolles 5 & \$1.00 Store

Cincinnati

Blumenthal Pharmacist

Phil's Market

Findlay

The City Markets

Lakewood

Ben Franklin Store

Spring Valley

Barker's Drug Store

Arch Copsey

J. P. Krietzner

Toledo

Lane Drug Company

Z. O. Scott

D. O. Shaver

Youngstown

S. H. Kress & Co.

Ole's Market

For Statewide Use

W. T. Grant Co.

Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company

S. S. Kresge Compapny

G. C. Murphy

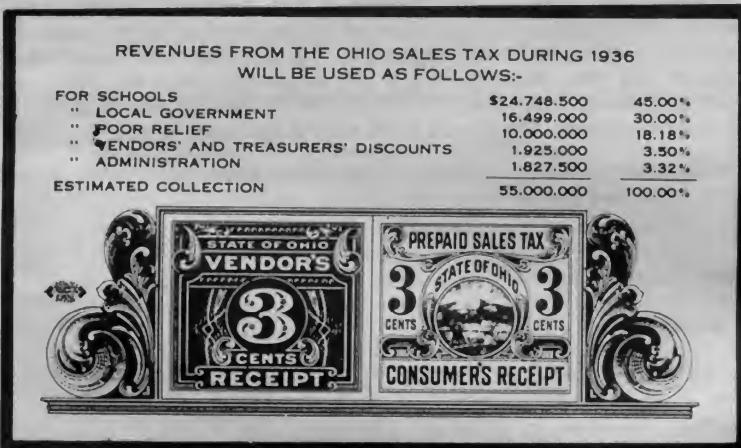
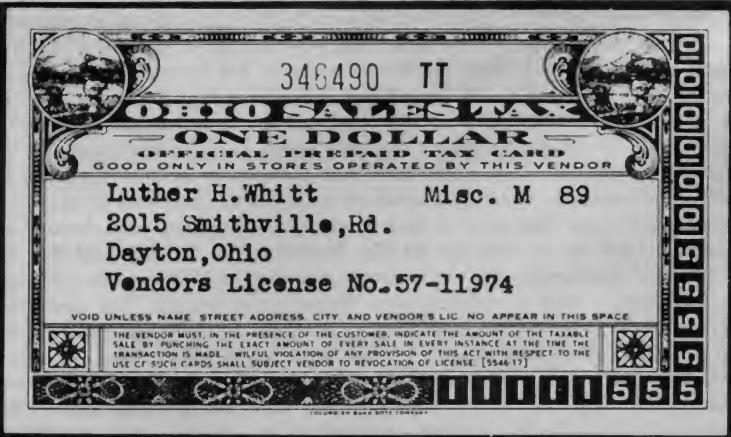
Neisner Brothers

Scott-Burr Stores

F. W. Woolworth Company

**Part II: Ohio's State Issue Cards**

The private cards were abandoned on February 1, 1936. The state cards came into effect as of that date, although partially punched private cards could still be used until they were punched out. The new state cards had no stub and left a space on the obverse in which the merchant was required to put his name, address, and Vendor's license number. Like the receipts, the merchant had to



OBVERSE AND REVERSE OF GREY OHIO STATE ISSUE PUNCH CARD

purchase the cards in advance of their use, but was not required to collect them when they expired. Once imprinted, the card was usable only in the store of issue. Stores which had branches throughout the state could take the cards from any other of its branches. The first issue of grey cards had 30 punch spaces, and the later had only eighteen. The grey cards carried a list of the anticipated uses of the collected sales taxes in 1936 on their reverses. The later orange cards had blank reverses. Since there is no record of the introduction of the orange cards into the sales tax collection procedures, it is guessed that they were put out in about 1937. As with many other states and their tokens no record was kept as to when the punch card system was abandoned. Old-time residents recall their use up through the early 1940's, but they were probably abandoned gradually during that later period as were many tokens in other states. A letter from the Tax Commission to Herbert Rowold in 1947 indicated that the punch cards were, at



OBVERSE OF ORANGE OHIO STATE ISSUE PUNCH CARD (REVERSE IS BLANK)

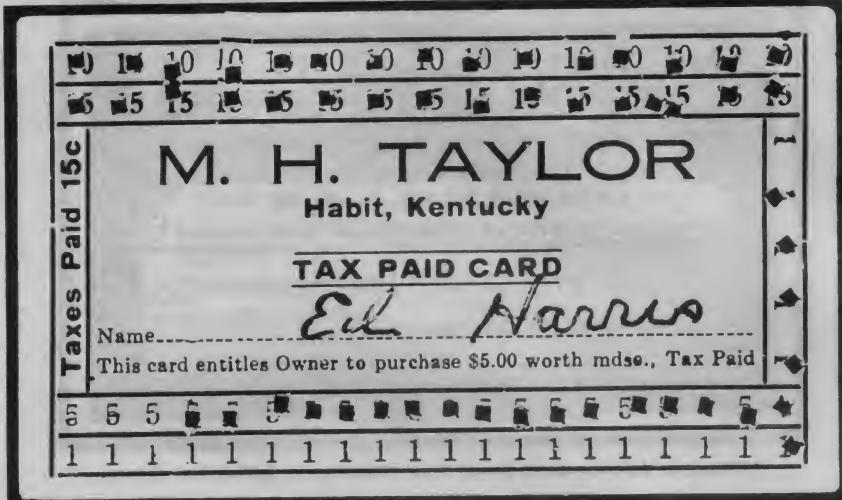
least in official eyes, in public use. Recent letters from the Commission indicated no knowledge of the cards.

The cards were printed largely by the Columbian Bank Note Company, although there was a small contract let to the American Bank Note Company in 1939 along with their printing of several lots of the receipts. All state cards are 100 x 60mm. Grey cards are moderately common and the orange are scarce. Most used large, identifiable control letters along with a serial number of some kind.

Printer: Columbian Bank Note Company  
 grey cards — 30 spaces  
     single black control letter, A through Z  
     double black control letter, AA through DD  
     single red control letter, A through M  
     double red control letter, AA through DD  
 grey cards — 18 spaces  
     single green letter, N through Z  
     double green letter, NN through ZZ  
     triple green letter, AAA through HHH  
 orange cards  
     single black letter, A through L  
     double black letter, AA through CC  
     single red letter, A through P  
     no company imprint, no large control letter  
 Printer: American Bank Note Company  
 orange cards  
     single black letter, A  
     double black letter, AA

#### Part III: Known Private Sales Tax Cards of California, Illinois, Iowa, and Kentucky

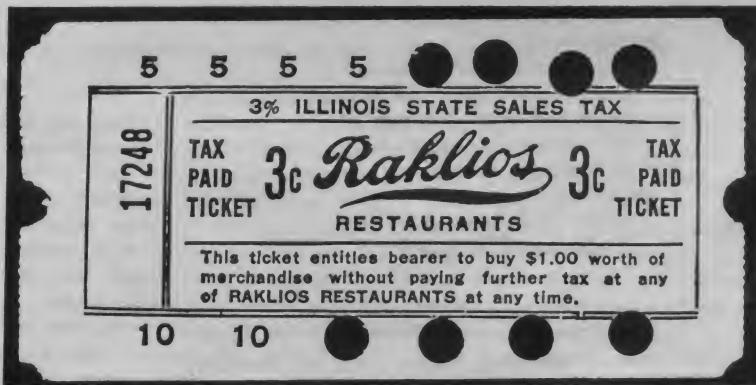
In a few other states merchants also issued their own cards, and as in Ohio, the purpose of them was to allow the consumer to avoid paying too much tax. One



M.H. TAYLOR PUNCH CARD (KENTUCKY)

difference between Ohio and the other states was that the cards described in this section were not put out by the state or at its request, but by the merchant for his own peace of mind until his customers became accustomed to the new laws. Most of the issuers seem to have been chain restaurants serving low-income clientele, and the cards were likely not in use for more than a few months in any one case. They were valid only in the store of issue and usually had at least the tacit approval of the state tax agency.

The one known California card was probably used immediately after the passage of the Retail Sales Act which took effect on August 1, 1933. Each punch (or "coupon" as described on the card), was good for tax on a five cent purchase, or a 2 1/2% rate, and the card cost one cent. By reading the reverse of the card one can get some glimpse of the sales tax overcharge issue that sparked the emission of these cards and the millions of sales tax tokens used later in other states. Most



RAKLIOS RESTAURANTS PUNCH CARD (ILLINOIS)



OBVERSE AND REVERSE OF WHITE LOG TAVERNS PUNCH CARD (CALIFORNIA)

of the Illinois cards were used during the same year, although earlier. Illinois had two tax rates during 1933, 3% and 2%, with the rate going back up to 3% in 1935. The known companies that used them were Chicago chain restaurants, Raklio's and Thompson's. The Raklio's came in a ticket roll and each bore rouletted separations at each end.

One punch card attributed to Des Moines, Iowa, by DiBella and Rowold, is another Thompson's piece, identical in design to the Illinois pieces. In this case, though, the message to the card user was different, reading:

" . . . without paying further tax at any Thompson's Restaurant in any state wherein the same rate of retail sales taxation is effective. SAVE THIS CARD, money will be refunded if sales tax law is held invalid."

This paragraph probably reflects the company's concern about the tax law which was held unconstitutional in Illinois in May 1933. The card did not clearly state that it was to be used in Iowa, and was probably meant to be used in other states as well. If it was used in Des Moines it was used in mid-1934, just after the 2% tax there took effect on April 1.

Two cards are known from Kentucky and there may have been more. A large green one was used in a small town called Habit, probably issued by a general merchandise store. Another, recently located, was used by a Lexington bakery. These were probably used in 1935 before the short-lived sales tax receipt system was adopted in that state.

LISTINGS:

CALIFORNIA

Oakland and San Francisco — 1933

White Log Taverns:

green ink (obv) and black ink (rev) on manila cardstock

1¢ on 40¢

normal reverse: "We do not want . . ." — rare

error reverse: "We no not want . . ." — scarce

ILLINOIS

Chicago — 1933

Raklio's Restaurants:

3¢ on \$1.00, black ink on green cardstock in ticket roll form — rare (unique?)

Thompson's Restaurants:

3¢ on \$1.00, black ink on pink cardstock — scarce

3¢ on \$1.00, black ink on grey cardstock — rare (unique?)

2¢ on \$1.00, black ink on pink cardstock — rare (unique?)

IOWA

Des Moines — 1934

Thompson's Restaurants

2¢ on \$1.00, black ink on green cardstock — rare

KENTUCKY

Habit — 1935

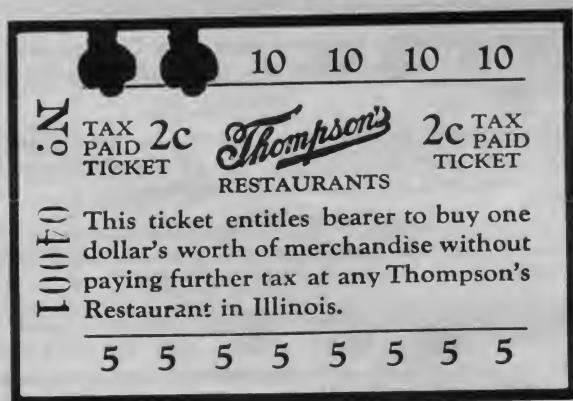
M. H. Taylor

15¢ on \$5.00, black ink on green cardstock — rare (unique?)

Lexington

Grosche Bakery

6¢ on \$2.00, black ink on white cardstock — rare (unique?)



THOMPSONS RESTAURANTS PUNCH CARD (ILLINOIS)

AMERICAN TAX TOKEN SOCIETY  
1972 Income and Expenses 1972

		Balance: December 31, 1971	\$178.02
<b>INCOME:</b>			
\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	Members (Associate)	
66.00	2.00	Members (New)	
178.00	2.00	Members (Renewal)	
40.00	40.00	Members (Life)	
11.00		Donations	
27.76		Advertisements	
17.55		Auctions	
15.60		Extra Newsletters	
8.81		Postage for Extra Newsletters	
75.85		DiBella Catalog Sales Revenue	
<hr/>	<hr/>		
\$441.57			<u>441.57</u>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
\$ 4.54		Bank Service Charges	
4.00		T.A.M.S. — 72 Membership	
79.89		Editorial Office Postage	
64.75		President Expenses	
16.40		Librarian Expenses	
<hr/>	<hr/>		
\$169.58			<u>169.58</u>
		Balance: December 31, 1972	<u>\$450.01</u>

## Auction No. 5 Results

ATTS Treasurer and Actioneer George Frakes reports that Auction Number 5 was fairly successful. The bids were:

- Lot 501: No Bid
- Lot 502: No Bid
- Lot 503: \$1.00
- Lot 504: \$1.00
- Lot 505: \$.35
- Lot 506: \$1.00
- Total      \$3.35

## Dues Are Due

Members whose ATTS number is 160 or less are reminded that 1973 dues are now payable and become delinquent after March 31, 1973. An envelope is enclosed for payment: please include name, address, and membership number.

Dues are as follows:

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Regular Membership   | — \$ 2.00 |
| Associate Membership | — \$ 1.00 |
| Life Membership      | — \$40.00 |

## Auction No. 6

George Frakes announces that Auction Number 6 is now open for bidding. Bidders should include their ATTS membership number when sending bids to George at P.O. Box 1427, Oceanside, CA 92054. This auction includes material that is sought after by most S.T.T. collectors:

- Lot 601: (1) Ohio receipt pair, 3¢ (DiBella Superior II)
- Lot 606: (1) Ohio receipt pair, 9¢ (DiBella Superior II)
- Lot 603: (1) Ohio receipt pair, 30¢ (DiBella Superior II)
- Lot 604: (1) Ohio receipt pair, 60¢ (DiBella Superior II)
- Lot 605: (1) Ohio receipt pair, 12¢ (DiBella Merrick I)
- Lot 606: (1) Washington Cardboard, Spokane, 1935.
- Lot 607: (1) Washington Cardboard, Rainier Packing Co. (Seattle), 1935.

# Recap of Biennial Membership Election Ballot for Society Officers, 1973-74

Jerry Schimmel mailed out 129 ballots. There were returned 63 ballots. Reporting the following results of the above ballots:

	Board members-at-large
President	Jerry F. Schimmel ..... 63
Vice-President	Michael G. Pfefferkorn ... 62
Secretary	Charles L. Carter ..... 62
Treasurer	George R. Frakes ..... 62
	Jerry Bates ..... 59
	Ray Erkson ..... 17
	Glyn Farber ..... 43
	Elbert S. A. Hubbard ..... 24
	Thomas McMann ..... 21
	Robert E. Paige ..... 22

THERE SHALL BE A TOKEN HOLDER PROJECT DEVELOPED BY  
ATTS FOR SALES TAX TOKENS

YES.... 33    NO.... 24

## SOCIETY EMBLEM CONTEST

1. Present Emblem .....	(42)
2. Glyn Farber Entry .....	(11)
3. George Frakes Entry .....	(7)
4. Russell Moyer Entries .....	(1)
5. _____ .....	(0)

## ANALYSIS of BALLOT RESPONSES

### What to do with the \$65 — 34 respondents

1. 10 responses — apply it in some form to the costs of the holder
2. 6 responses — use it to develop better publicity for ATTS
3. 6 responses — use it to provide back issues, get more information into newsletter, etc.
4. 4 responses — apply it to the development of the catalog
5. 4 responses — develop a membership token or medal
6. 3 responses — hold money for future need
7. 1 response — develop an award system for local exhibitors. Give them a prize for exhibiting at local shows whether they win or not.
8. 1 response — apply it to keeping dues down
9. 1 response — develop an ATTS tie tac

### Other Comments — 19 comments

1. need better publicity
2. develop the holder
3. develop a newsletter bibliography
4. develop a catalog
5. develop a new membership roster
6. give an award for best articles in newsletter

## *What is it?*

Many very interesting tokens sent in by members for this issue. Below are listed some of the unknowns that have been attributed. Send in any rubbings and descriptions of unknown tokens that you may have on hand and we will try to attribute them in this column for you. Send to: Bob Paige, 2028 Edgemont Ave., Chester, PA 19013.

by Bob Paige

(Editor's note: Beginning with this issue, the ATTS Newsletter will feature a regular column, written by ATTS member Bob Paige, concerned with the identification of various types of tokens. This column is intended to help members who collect other types of tokens, or who are merely interested in the identification of tokens they've come across while hunting sales tax tokens.

Actual tokens should not be sent to Bob. He asks that those seeking identification of a particular token send a rubbing and/or as complete a description as possible. No personal answer will be sent; answers will appear only in this column. Requests and answers will appear in the order that they are received and identification is made).

1. Dear Mr. Paige — I have a token as follows: an Indian head surrounded by stars with date of 1863, other side has: Not/one/Cent in a wreath. Enclosed a rubbing of same would appreciate if you can tell me what it is. Thank you, L. C.  
ANS. — Yes, the token you submitted is a Civil War token issued during that time due to shortage of coinage. Your token is listed in a civil war token reference book as Fuld #62/367, having a rating of Rarity 3, its current value is \$2.00 in Fine condition.
2. Dear Bob, — Enclosed is a rubbing of a token I have been wondering about for some time now. Do you think you can help me on it. It is as follows: Junior Mercantile Co./1/Norton, W. Va., Reverse: Ins. Credit System. It is made of bronze. Thanks, J. B.  
ANS. — The token rubbing is that of a means of exchange called "Coal Scrip". The coal mine companies paid their workers off in this scrip, which they accepted in the companies Company Store. The piece you have is listed in a coal scrip reference book as Caldwell #17J-1, having a high Rarity rating of "R", your token is worth approximately \$5.00.
3. Hi Bob, — This token has been on my headache list for some time, can you tell me anything about it: West End/Bakery/Portage/La/Prairie, Reverse: Good for 1 loaf of bread., Made of aluminum, it is square, it is 15/16" across and is in Fine shape. Any help will be appreciated. Thank you in advance. B. P.  
ANS. — Your token is known as a merchant token. These were used as currency between the owner of a store and the customer. This particular token is from Portage La Prairie, in Manitoba, Canada. It is listed in a Canadian Token reference as Stewart #3360a, with a Rarity rating of 3, it is worth between \$2 - \$3.

## Welcome, New Members

ATTS Secretary Charles L. Carter reports the applications of 5 new members. We welcome the following individuals:

167. James H. Holtel, Stoltz Drug Store, 23 Public Square, Nelsonville, OH 45764 (Secretary).
168. Frank P. Estep, 922 Alexander Circle, Pueblo, CO 81001 (Secretary).
169. George Van Trump, Jr., P.O. Box 656, Edgemont Branch, Golden, CO 80401 (Secretary).
170. Hugh Montgomery, 174 Rockland St., South Dartmouth, MA 02748 (Altvater).
171. H. F. Shankweiler, Box 9221, Queen Ann Station, Seattle, WA 98109 (Secretary).

## **President's Message**

As you all can see, ballot results are in and I will be serving the membership for another two years. Since there is no immediate past President to serve on the Board as per our constitution, I will move that Robert Paige be appointed to the post when the new Board and officers take over in January, since he received the fourth highest vote. Thanks go to Ray Erkson of California for helping run ATTS the first two years, and thanks to Tom McMann of Iowa for running (incidentally, Tom is gathering data on ALL types of plastic STT's and would like to beg, borrow, trade, or steal them from other collectors — Tom McMann, 1612 North Delaware, Mason City, IA 50401). And we voted to keep the present society emblem. The prize was to be a 2 peso Mexican gold piece donated by Mrs. Paula Stayner, but the Board will have to decide what to do with it (Thanks, Paula).

There was a fairly clear majority in favor of the holder project, so we will proceed on it. I was surprised about the concern over publicity by members. We've been running a \$26.00 ad in *Coin World* for 13 weeks, but apparently haven't had as good results as we hoped. Ernie Alvater was our first publicity Chairman, and Jack Miller our second. Ernie is now editor of the newsletter (which he edits and publishes free to ATTS!), and Jack had to resign for personal reasons. Can some one of you who is concerned draw up some publicity plan and submit it through me to the Board? ATTS is run on volunteer effort, so if there is no volunteer publicity man, then only minimal things will get done.

When the 1973-74 term gets started the Board will take up the many suggestions, most of which were good. Several respondents had particular concerns, and I'll answer them here. If you want to trade tokens, use the newsletter Trading Post column. You're entitled to one free ad every other issue. Back issues of the newsletter are supposed to be sent to you for the year in which you join so as to offset any problems for late joiners. If you haven't received them for all of one year, then contact Charlie Carter. Otherwise they are 10¢ each to ATTS members. Mavericks are supposed to be published in the newsletter when they come up, otherwise we haven't had too many lately. One Canadian member felt that he lived too far away to volunteer any help on ATTS because he lives in Canada. No such thing! Nearly all of the officers live half a continent away from the other so that's no excuse. Please feel free.

What's coming up in the next two years? Probably the catalog for one thing. It is being written by Mike Pfefferkorn and myself outside of the society, and is titled *Chits, Chislars, and Funny Money: A History and Catalog of Sales Tax Tokens*. It will be lengthy and detailed, covering local and state histories on STT's, and listings of regular issue tokens, receipts, punch cards, scrip, anti-sales tax items, patterns, and pieces which might be confused with sales tax tokens. It will have prices. The holder project will probably get done, but will likely have to wait on the arrival of the catalog. We may develop a system of awards on both local STT exhibits and/or articles for the newsletter. There may well be a society token or medal developed. Here's to a good two years.

Jerry Schimmel

# A.T.T.S. Newsletter

The Official Journal Of  
The American Tax Token Society  
ANA C-69092 TAMS 2334

Volume 3, Number 1

March-April, 1973

## A Sales Tax Sidelight: The Sherrill Coupon Method

by Jerry F. Schimmel

(Adapted from an article which originally appeared in the State Revenue Newsletter)

The mid-1930's were the heyday of sales tax stamps, punch cards, scrip, and tokens. The reader may already be familiar with the complex and fascinating sales tax series of Ohio well-documented by Messrs. Bloom and Hubbard, the scarce Kentucky state issues, and the Michigan Kroger Market coupons. The Sherrill method is a contemporary of all these, and is strikingly similar in design and principle to the Krogers. Let me say early that the series described below were, as far as I know, never adopted by the state of Pennsylvania or any other public or private issuing source, and they are probably only promotional samples, although they have been listed by Emil DiBella under Pennsylvania. The samples were accompanied by a small brochure titled, *Brief Statement of the Sherrill Coupon Method of Collecting Sales Taxes*, and "Copyrighted 1935 by C. O. Sherrill" of Philadelphia. The folder explained a complex method in which a state agent would check periodically with the merchant to assure compliance with the collection procedure.

*Booklets:* In the five booklets that I had the opportunity to examine the coupons came in sheets of five, which were stapled between cardboard covers. There

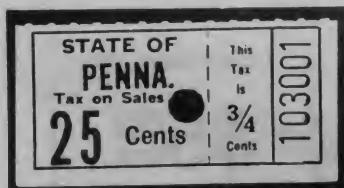


were fourteen sheets to each book and the covers read as the example shown.

The other covers had the following denominations accompanied by the same text: 30c/\$10.00; 60c/\$20.00; \$1.50/\$50.00; and \$3.00/\$100.00. The 15c booklet was in manila cardstock, the others brown. The back covers were blank as was the reverse of the front cover. The books had five punched holes, one through each coupon, probably to indicate cancellation of the sample in the event that they were ever adopted.

**Coupons:**

Each single receipt is 22mm x 45mm and is printed in black ink, except for the word "PENNA." and the serial number which are in red. Reverse were blank and unguammed. Separations were rouletteed. Each denomination had its own color and some had two. Note the denomination,  $\frac{1}{2}$  Cents on 25 Cents, which is probably an error, as all of the other coupons were set up for a 3% tax.



The corresponding coupon (in another color) is  $\frac{3}{4}$  Cents on 25 Cents. The coupons are printed on safety paper and there were three different paper manufacturer's safety designs as follows:



- ESPCO-ESPCO  
ESPCO-ESPCO-  
SPCO-ESPCO-E

Coupon Denominations & Paper Colors	Watermarks
1. 3/100c on 1c Light blue-green .....	Nat'l Ticket
1a. 3/100c on 1c Buff .....	Nat'l Ticket
2. 6/100c on 2c Light blue-green .....	Nat'l Ticket
2a. 6/100c on 2c Light lavender .....	ESPCo.
3. 15/100c on 5c Pink .....	GTCO.
3a. 15/100c on 5c Light blue-grey .....	Nat'l Ticket
4. 3/10c on 10c Light yellow-green .....	Nat'l Ticket
4a. 3/10c on 10c Buff .....	Nat'l Ticket
5. 3/4c on 25c Off-white .....	GTCO.
5E. 1/2c on 25c Grey .....	Nat'l Ticket
6. 1½c on 50c Light yellow-green .....	Nat'l Ticket
7. 3c on \$1. Pink .....	GTCO.
8. 15c on \$5. Light yellow-green .....	ESPCo.

The Sherrill pieces are at least scarce and may be rare. There is no price on them that I know. They are collected not just by philatelists, but numismatists as well, especially sales tax token collectors. The booklets I examined came from the collection of one of the early pioneers in the latter field, Mr. George W. Magee, Jr., of Pennsylvania.

# BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE SHERRILL COUPON METHOD OF COLLECTING SALES TAX

In substance, the Sherrill coupon system of collecting sales taxes is as follows:

Each retail merchant in the state is licensed as the agent of the Tax Department for the sale of coupon booklets and for the collection of the sales tax. The merchant might be allowed a reasonable percentage for his trouble in making the collection and handling of books—say 3% on the price of the booklets to the consumer.

A consumer coming into a store and having no coupon booklet would buy \$5.00 booklet for

15c; a \$10.00 booklet for 30c; a \$100.00 booklet

for \$3.00, and etc.

The merchant then makes a sale to the customer of say 50c, and while he is ringing up the sale and wrapping up the package, he notifies her of the price, whereupon she pays him 50c for the article purchased, plus a 50c tax coupon without any necessity of computing the fractional cents due for tax.

The sales clerk then cancels the coupon by tearing or by stamping his company's name on the coupon and places it in the receptacle set aside for that particular denomination of coupon.

This is the only work imposed on the retailer in the collection of the tax.

At some time after the end of the month, the state sends to this store a representative who

checks the coupons against the store's gross sales.

Where the state official has reason to believe the retailer has not taken in the required coupons in every transaction as required by law, he makes a rough check by estimate. Where there is doubt as to this, he counts the coupons segregated by denominations according to colors, using a differential counting scale. The coupons for a month's business of an ordinary grocery store can be counted in this way in about ten minutes. The counting is done in the presence of the store manager by the state official to avoid any argument.

Supposing a store during the month does \$10,000.00 of business, taxable sales, and the count of the tax coupons show \$9,500.00 face denomination. On a 3% tax the merchant would then be required to mail in to the tax department \$15.00 due the state because of failure to make complete collection of the coupons in all transactions. If the coupons have been honestly collected on all sales, no payment of taxes would be required of the merchant.

In actual practice the occasional spot check of the store will readily determine whether the retailer always collects the tax coupons and if so, actual count of the coupons is not necessary before the state representative destroys them.

If it is desired to simplify the already simple procedure of collecting the tax exactly at the prescribed rate down to the last penny, the collection can be made at the correct percentage to the nearest 5c instead. For instance on a 17c purchase the tax would be 3% of 15c or 45/100.

On 2c sales there would be no tax, but on 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7c sales, there would be a tax of 3% of 5c — 15/100s. Collecting the tax to the nearest 5c instead of to the last penny would save the printing of about 30% of the coupons because no 1c or 2c coupon would be required.

The above method can be applied as readily to credit sales as to cash sales. The buyer sends in to the seller the required tax coupons corresponding to the amount of payment made.

While the above complete system of payment of taxes is highly desirable because of the full check both by the visible passing of the coupons and the check of these coupons against the retailer's gross taxable sales, nevertheless the plan can be readily used on a partial basis as for instance on cash purchases, or at the option of the retailer.

C. O. SHERRILL

# Herren (Square)

A Detail Study and Analysis  
of Varieties

by Jerry Bates

This study was almost the one straw that broke this camel's back. Each token was checked for 7 different points, all measurements were made three times using a mm scale and a magnifying glass (10X), then all (each in turn) other tokens were checked three times and compared with other of the same varieties. On both sides.

The following chart shows the results of the study:

- 1st col = width of word "Token" at Top
- 2nd col = width of word "Token" at bottom
- 3rd col = thickness of number "1" in fraction
- 4th col = point at which the fraction bar would touch if said bar were to be extended upward at same angle
- 5th col = width of fraction bar

a mm	b mm	c mm	d*	e** mm
10½	10½	1	2	½
10½	10½	1	1	½-
10½	10½	1	1	½-◆
10½	10½	1	2	½
10½	10	1	3	¼
10	10	1	2	½
10	10	1	4	½
10	10	1	4	½-
9½	10	1	2	½-
9½	10	1	3	¼
10½	10½	¾	2	¼
10	10	¾	2	½
10	10	¾	3	½
10	10	¾	2	½-
9½	10	¾	2	¼
9½	9½	¾	3	½-

◆ Flawed Die

\* On column d:



- 1 = Die 1
- 2 = Die 2
- 3 = Die 3
- 4 = Die 4
- 1a = Regular die before flaw appeared
- 1b = Flawed die condition

\*\* On column e:

Thick fraction bar = ½mm  
Med = ½- or halfway between thick and thin  
Thin fraction bar = ¼mm

There are other combinations, but this is where I stopped. There are 5 cols listed above, but I did check a 6th point. The distance from the "1" of the fraction and the fraction bar to its right. Only two types showed up:

Far = 2mm apart  
Close = 1mm apart

**Note on flawed die:** This begins with a small pimple on the upper end of the fraction bar, and as it got progressively worse, the letter "E" and then the letter "N" of the upper word Token shows the effect; then worsening even more, the die break extends downward to the "E" and "N" of the lower word Token.

There are many combinations of the above varieties, as any of them can appear on one side and in conjunction with any other variety on the other side.

There was one other thing I noticed on very few tokens; the shifting to the left of the whole center portion.

And the 7th check point I used, the space between E and N of upper and lower word "Toke,,n;" again, there were 2 types:

Far = 1½mm

Close = 1mm

This is the last, at least for the present in the series of studies of Illinois metal provisional die varieties that I will be reporting on. The whole series started quite a few years ago and was an attempt to prove out a theory that I had, that almost all of the metal Illinois provisionals had been made from more dies than was then known.

T O K E N

1

T O K E N

Normal (within mm eyeball range)

T O K E N

1

T O K E N

Shifted to left

## Library List Footnote

Glyn Farber points out that the Library Listing which appeared in Vol. 2, No. 3 & 4 was incomplete as it did not mention the ATTS Newsletter and the Tax Token Talley. All issues of both publications are available for loan from the ATTS Library, Glyn Farber, 1618 15th St., Lake Charles, LA 70601.

## Are Your Dues Paid?

If the mailing label for this issue has a red line on it, ATTS Secretary Charles Carter has not yet received your 1973 dues. The January-February 1973 issue included an envelope for dues payment. In order to continue receiving the ATTS Newsletter, please send in your dues today.

# Welcome, New Members

ATTS Secretary Charles L. Carter reports the applications of 4 new members. We welcome the following individuals.

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 172. George C. Smith, 32 Bartley St., St. Peters, MO 63376                   | (Bates)     |
| 173. I. L. Pfalser, RR #1, Caney, KS 67333                                   | (Altvater)  |
| 174. Bruce C. Wickham, Tucson, AZ 85711                                      | (Secretary) |
| 175 Verner J. Anderson, 106 Garden Valley Medical Center, Roseburg, OR 97470 | (Bates)     |

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

126. Jeffrey L. McFarland, 3050 Fountain Blvd., Apt. 107, Colorado Spr., CO 80910
- 

## 1973 DONATIONS RECEIVED TO DATE FROM THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF ATTS:

F22 Wardie Jackson	\$3.00
F52 W. O. Ashworth	\$1.00

# Newsletter Needs Articles, Research

The ATTS Newsletter needs fresh articles about sales tax tokens and related items. Any members who feel that they would like to write an article are asked to contact ATTS Newsletter Editor Ernie Altvater. Although articles dealing with any area of STT's are welcome, we are in particular need of articles concerning metal, plastic, and fibre tokens issued by various states.

In addition to articles, the ATTS Newsletter is also seeking articles from local newspapers dealing with sales tax tokens — issuance, reception by consumers and merchants, problems, situational news (human interest stories related to STT's), etc. To help in the search through old newspapers (public libraries usually have them), listed here are the issuance dates of several states:

- ALABAMA — March 1, 1937  
ARIZONA — Aug. 1, 1937  
COLORADO — Sept. 1, 1935  
ILLINOIS — July 1, 1935 (for state issues)  
— April 1, 1933 (for provisionals  
—have to check each town  
separately)  
KANSAS — June 1, 1937  
LOUISIANA — Oct. 1, 1936  
MISSISSIPPI — July 1, 1936  
MISSOURI — Aug. 27, 1935  
NEW MEXICO — July 1, 1935  
OHIO — January 27, 1935  
OKLAHOMA — 1937 (exact date unknown)  
UTAH — July 1, 1937  
WASHINGTON — May 1, 1935

## What is it?

Only one member sent in 2 unknown tokens to be identified for this issue of the Newsletter. Send in any rubbings and descriptions of unknown tokens that you may have on hand and we will try to attribute them in this column for you. Send to: Bob Paige, 2028 Edgemont Ave., Chester, PA 19013.

by Bob Paige

1. Dear Bob — Enjoyed your first column. Getting unknown tokens are fun at least to me. First unknown is the initials FE linked to tied together, obv. and reverse the same, with a knurled type field. Struck in white metal, 22mm in size. Thanks, R.S.

ANS.— This particular token is known as pinball machine token, or slot machine token, if you prefer. This type of token was very popular in the 1930's and 1940's when these type of machines flourished. It would very difficult to pinpoint the exact location of the token, but it could be Minnesota, due to a very large hoard of them been discovered there recently. Value on this one would be 25¢.

2. Dear Bob — Second has Egyptian like symbols on obv. and rev., thin bronze, 33mm in size may have been a charm or lucky piece as it had a loop on it at one time. Thanks, R.S.

ANS. — This token is called by many as a magicians token. It is not actually one, but is very closely associated with the magic field. The obv. depicts the Egyptian Sphinx, while the rev. depicts Egyptian God and symbols. Actually, this token was an award given to magicians for inventing the best tricks or illusions. This award came from the magic magazine titled "THE SPHINX". A good number of the medals were distributed and the piece is quite often found. Value on this one would be \$1.50.

## Auction No. 6 Results

ATTS Treasurer and Auctioneer George Frakes reports the success of Auction Number 6, as follows:

Lot 601:	\$ .60
Lots 602-604:	Withdrawn (incorrect description)
Lot 605:	\$1.50
Lot 606:	\$1.75
Lot 606:	\$1.75
Lot 607:	\$1.75
Total	\$5.60

### Milk Bottle Caps Hit

#### By Sales Tax Tokens

Emporia, Kas., Oct. (A. P.) — Emporia's dairymen are having trouble getting enough milk bottle caps. Missouri's sales tax is to blame.

That state, using milk bottle caps stamped with mills for tokens, has factories so busy that the orders for dairying purposes are held up.

Paper Unknown  
Sept. 1935

## ATTS Auction No. 7

George Frakes announces that Auction Number 7 is now open for bidding. Bidders should include their ATTS membership number when sending bids to George at P.O. Box 1427, Oceanside, CA 92054. This auction includes material that is sought after by many S.T.T. collectors:

- Lot 701: (1) Ohio receipt pair, 9c (DiBella Merrick II)
- Lot 702: (1) Ohio receipt pair, 30c (DiBella Merrick II)
- Lot 703: (1) Ohio receipt pair, 60c (DiBella Merrick II)
- Lot 704: (1) Canada - Saskatchewan F. W. Woolworth Co.  
1c Education Tax
- Lot 705: (1) Canada - Prince Edward Island  
4c pink
- Lot 706: (1) Canada - Prince Edward Islands  
3c, double print

(Bidding closes May 1, 1973)

# "Jimmy's Penny"

by Harvey L. Hansen  
The Numismatist, March 1934



Here in California there is a great deal of good-natured grumbling, once a purchase has been made in a retail store, because the dealer mentions not only the price but also the retail sales tax. Then the customer usually says, "Yeah, a penny for Jimmy." The Jimmy referred to is none other than James Rolph, Jr., California's flying Governor, who instituted the 2½% retail sales tax last year. After the law went into effect it was felt that a number of the retailers were overcharging their customers as far as the tax was concerned, especially on sales in the lower brackets. Most of the stores absorb the tax on sales up to 15 cents, but some of the reasonably priced restaurants felt that they could

not do so and therefore issued tax scrip. So far only two different kinds have come to my attention, that of the Leighton Dairy Lunch and the White Log Tavern, both organizations operating in San Francisco and across the bay in Oakland and Berkeley.

The Leighton Dairy Lunch issued small cardboard scrip reading "Good for California Retail Sales Tax on any purchase of 5c." Accordingly for 1 cent (Jimmy's penny) one receives eight, and they take off the required number from the strip.

The State Board of Equalization has several times announced that it would issue metallic scrip for this tax in the 1/8 cent denomination, but, due to opposition of various merchant organizations, we have been denied this emission.

## Trading Post

One free ad per member every-other issue  
Twenty-five word limit.

TRADE State issue or Illinois ¼c provisional SST's for other items need, including parking and transportation tokens. Write Joe Studebaker, Jr., 2614 Legare St., Beaufort, SC 29902.

TRADE two different foreign coins for each different tax tokens or tax stamp, or any other type token. Gordon Brandon, 32 Bertha, Albany, NY 12209.

A & P Food Store U.S. Dept. of Atgr. red fiber 1 and black 5 tokens to trade. Art Weilbacher, P.O. Box 142, Columbia, IL 62236.

MONEY!!! I'll send you lots for your Illinois Civil War Store Cards. Write, Describe, Price. R. Hartzog, P.O. Box 4143GE, Rockford IL 61110.

### DI BELLA SALES TAX TOKEN CHECK LIST STILL AVAILABLE

(BUT THE SUPPLY IS DWINDLING)

Price: 50 cents to members; \$1.25 to non-members; sent first-class, price is postpaid

Order from ATTS Editorial Office, 607 N. Orange Ave., Azusa, CA 91702

# A.T.T.S. Newsletter

The Official Journal Of  
The American Tax Token Society  
ANA C-69092      TAMS 2334

Volume 3, Number 2

May-June, 1973

## Anti-Sales-Tax Items

(Illustrations by Jerry Schimmel      Photos by Duane Feisel)

Neither the sales tax nor the tax it represents has ever been popular among the citizens of its issuing state. Although the token itself was often criticized as a nuisance, and often given such dubious nicknames as "chisler," or "smidget," it was really the tax that fired the resentment. From the early 1930's and on, more and more states found the sales tax to be a practical income producer (a 1967 Associated Press story reported that 31 states listed sales tax as their top revenue source). As more states passed sales tax laws, or considered doing so, the anti-sales-tax sentiments made themselves known. The Tenino, Washington, editorial that was reprinted in the ATTS Newsletter (Vol. 2, No. 5) is one example of the opposition speaking out, directly attacking the sales tax token while indirectly striking out against the actual tax (the final paragraph read, "When will people realize that the way to escape the problems of taxation is to quit spending os darn much money"). The hand-written and rubber-stamped messages which often appeared on Missouri "milktop" tokens ("Vote Republican And End This Silly Tax" and "The Rich Get Richer And The Poor Get Sales Tax") began, in a crude manner, another form of sales tax protest — the anti-sales-tax token.

Illustrated and described in this issue are some of the anti-sales-tax items which have appeared over the years in various states. They are presented in the belief that anti-sales-tax items are as important in the history of sales tax tokens as are the STT's themselves.



The rubber-stamped and hand-written protests that appeared on the backs of Missouri "milktop" sales tax tokens were the first anti-sales-tax tokens; the token represented the tax, and it was the most appropriate medium for the protest.

### INDIANA: The "Tax Twins" Token

Indiana's sales tax went into effect on October 23, 1963, a late-comer to the list of sales-taxing states. The governor and lieutenant-governor at the time were Democrats Welsh and Ristine. During the 1964 Indiana gubernatorial cam-

paign the Republicans, according to George Frakes, issued a card with the following message:

I PROTEST GOV. WELSH'S  
SALES TAX  
  
DON'T LET HIM GET CONTROL  
OF CITY HALL



At about the same time as the card was issued the anti-sales-tax token illustrated above appeared (it has not been shown who the token's issuer was). Note that the "L" in "WELSH" was changed to an "I" in order to make the name fit the token. The "2 CENT SALES TAX" is in reference to the two per cent sales tax rate that had been passed.

The token is made of aluminum, and it is 35 mm in diameter.

#### NEBRASKA: Several Anti-Sales-Tax Items



Emil Di Bella's checklist shows two cardboard tokens from Nebraska, one issued by the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and the other by "Tangier Temple — A.A.O.N.M.S." Each is printed in two ink colors (red and blue) on white, and each is 42 mm in diameter. The Chamber of Commerce token is illustrated above (the reverse is blank); the other is identical except for the name of the organization replacing the "Omaha Chamber of Commerce." Paul H. Hamm,

in his article "Sales Tax Tokens" (Calcoin News, March 1947), describes yet another cardboard token:

Nebraska never has had a sales tax nor has it had a bonded debt. Nebraskans are proud of this fact. To poke fun at the states that were using the tokens, someone in Nebraska issued tokens on which are printed this information: On one side, "We don't take funny money in Nebraska"; on the other, the facts of the state's financial well-being are well publicized.



Another Nebraska anti-sales-tax token is this 32 mm steel piece. It, as well as an identical 35 mm piece, has a blank reverse.

Various labels and stickers, two of which are illustrated below, were also issued to brag that Nebraska did not have, among other things, a sales tax. The



labels were produced in both one and two colors, and the stock upon which they were printed ran the gamut from plain white gum stock to foil label.

Nebraska now has a 2½% sales tax rate. In answer to a recent letter requesting information about its cardboard token, the Omaha Chamber of Commerce denied ever issuing any such token.

#### OREGON: A Pin-Back Protest



Jerry Schimmel brought this token tangent to our attention last year. The 37 mm pin-back button was issued in 1968-69 as part of the campaign to defeat a proposed three per cent sales tax law (constitutional amendment). The campaign was successful, and Oregon remains one of the few states without a sales tax.

(Incidentally, Jerry has all of the buttons left over from the campaign. He'll trade one for "some sort of token, not necessarily a sales tax token, but not a circulated state-issue S.T.T." and a self-addressed stamped envelope. His address is P.O. Box 40888, San Francisco, CA 94140.)

TEXAS: Three Tokens Listed



Texas #1



Texas #2

Texas #3

Glyn Farber and Jerry Schimmel have reported the three tokens shown here. All three are 22 mm in diameter. Tokens numbers one and two are of aluminum, and number three is made of gold anodized aluminum; it is possible that all three exist in both plain and anodized aluminum. The numbers "1," "2," and "3" indicate the legislative districts in which the candidates were running. These tokens originate from the San Antonio area, and were issued in 1960. It is possible that a fourth token of this style exists.

(Texas now has a four per cent sales tax. No sales tax tokens were ever issued in Texas).

MAVERICKS: Origins of Titone and Ferguson Items Not Known



The token shown here is made of aluminum and is 36 mm in diameter. The "26 S.D." probably refers to the Senate District from which Titone hoped to be elected, but the state and campaign year are not known.

Another unattributed anti-sales-tax item is a sticker attached to a penny. The 16½ mm sticker, printed in red ink on white stock, reads, "VOTE/FERGUSON/-/FIGHT/SALES/TAX".



Die 1



Die 2

Jerry Bates, who has discovered dozens of die varieties in Illinois provisional sales tax tokens, has sent in this set of illustrations of two such varieties. Note the difference in the shapes of the upper ends of the fraction bars on the reverse sides of the tokens. Also note where the fraction bar would intersect the name "LA SALLE," were it extended. In a limited sampling, Jerry found that die 1 appeared three times as frequently as did die 2. (These excellent photos were made by Syd Joseph.)

## Tokens Attributed

Bob Paige reports that no requests for token attribution were received from ATTS members for this issue. His free service is available to any member who sends in a rubbing and description of the unidentified token(s). Bob's attribution will appear in the next ATTS Newsletter, if he is able to identify it; if he can't identify it, he'll keep trying. His address is 2028 Edgemont Ave., Chester, PA 19013.

## Auction Results

ATTS Treasurer and auctioneer George Frakes announces the following results of ATTS Auction number 7:

704.	\$1.18
705.	\$2.21
706.	\$5.18
Total: \$8.63	

If you would like to contribute any sales tax items to ATTS for its auctions please contact George at: P.O. Box 1427, Oceanside, CA 92054.

## President's Message

Within the next month or so you will receive in the mail a free booklet entitled "U.S. State-Issued Sales Tax Tokens," authored by me and with excellent photographs by Syd Joseph. It will be a list of state issues by type with photos, reference numbers, and prices. The booklet is free to all ATTS members, and so if you haven't paid up this year's dues you probably won't receive it. This work should provide a basic guide to collecting STT's. However, it does not include any study or listings of private and provisional series, any of the Ohio paper series, or any of the related fields like anti-sales-tax items.

The arrangement to publish this booklet was made between myself and the Board, with myself abstaining from any vote. Five hundred copies will be printed at cost by Edgewood Press (Ernie Altvater), and half of those will go to me as royalty for authoring the booklet. The remaining two hundred fifty will be retained by ATTS for distribution to ATTS members, present and future. Future reprint and re-editing rights will belong to ATTS after this edition is exhausted. We hope that it works out well as an additional guide for collectors.

Tom McMann of Mason City, Iowa, was recently appointed as our new Publicity Chairman and has already had some of his notices published in Coin World, for one. Tom is always ready to give help where it is needed. Thanks, Tom!

Jerry F. Schimmel

## Welcome, New Members

The membership applications of four new members have been reported by ATTS Secretary Charles L. Carter. We welcome the following individuals:

- 176 Franc P. Connor HM 1, U.S. Nav. Hosp. (Lab), Orlando, FL 32813 (Bates)  
177 Wm. J. Macomber, 8811 Frankford Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136 (Paige)  
178 Gary L. Finley, 509 East Cypress, Charleston, MO 63834 (Koontz)  
179 Robert E. Hatfield, Galesburg, IL 61401 (Newsletter)

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- F-37 Roy H. Carpenter, 101 McKinnin Place, Nanaimo, B.C., Canada  
83 Edwin C. Kettenbrink, Jr., 3805 Englewood Circle, Briarwood Village,  
Odessa, TX 79762

### FOR THE PHILATELICLY INCLINED —

RJ-11 (no invert o/p) used doc. stamps overprinted: Tobacco Sale Tax  
Scott catalogues them at \$33.00 per set in used. My price (while two sets  
last) is \$17.50 per set.

(The ATTS Library has an article giving more details on them and their  
use than Scott's mere listing)

JERRY BATES -- Box 777 -- St. Charles, MO 63301

## Trading Post

One free ad per member every-other issue  
Twenty-five word limit.

Would like to buy Coca Cola tokens not already in my collection. Ernie Altvater,  
607 N. Orange Ave., Azusa, CA 91702

ILL. STT's wanted: Depue, Herrin (round), Beardstown (cardboard), Canton, Ge- .  
nesco, Lincoln Park, Macomb, and Malden. Robert Leonard, 7445 Churchill, Mor-  
ton Grove, IL 60053.

# A.T.T.S. Newsletter

The Official Journal Of  
The American Tax Token Society  
ANA C-69092 TAMS 2334

Volume 3, Number 3-4

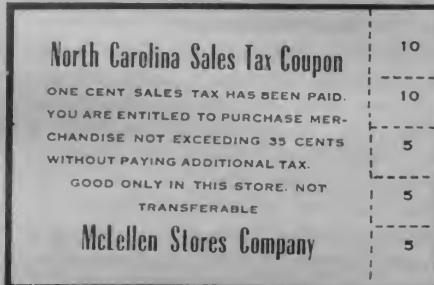
July-October, 1973

## North Carolina Sales Tax Coupons

Jerry F. Schimmel

A series little-known to most revenue stamp and tax token collectors are the tax coupons of North Carolina. Issued sometime in the mid-thirties, their exact date of emission and expiration are as yet unknown. Some of these appear to be a fractional-cent scrip (paper money) while others operate on a modified coupon clipping principle like a punch card. Their use was to facilitate the collection of sales taxes due in fractions of a cent. They were mostly issued by a large chain five and ten cent stores, although a few small businesses are known to have issued some. The tax rate was 3% and the coupons were good only in stores of issue.

given in change for that portion of the tax due which amounted to less than a cent.



### Tear-Coupons

The other method used is what I describe as the "tear coupon" variety. Part of the message of these reads "1c sales tax has been paid." Purchased for a penny, this coupon had portions roulette for separation, usually the corners, ready to be torn away as the tax was paid. In principle it is very similar to the punch cards which were used in Ohio. There were usually three sections in each corner for 10 cent purchases and one for 5 cents. Thus when the consumer made a dime purchase, the clerk tore off one of the corners and the tax was paid.

The paper on which both types were printed was usually of foolscap quality, colors fading easily, and the paper becoming brittle with age. Among the pieces I have examined, there were none with visible watermarks, nor any with safety designs. The ink color for all was invariably



### Scrip Type

The most common type of design reads: "Coupon For North Carolina Sales Tax Good for 1/3 of One Cent Tax On A Purchase From . . ." with the name of the firm and perhaps some commercial message. These were

black, and pieces were printed on one side only. They came in gummed pads like your note paper on the telephone stand. Designs and layout were strictly utilitarian, not making a particularly creative addition to anyone's collection. There are print size varieties to be found. The normal size of the coupon is about 50 x 75 mm (2 x 3 inches), although not all conform to this rule. Such items are not readily found on the market, except occasionally, and then only by specialists in tax tokens or revenue stamps. They sell from a minimum of \$1.50 each up to \$2.50 in unused condition. Tear-coupons with portions missing sell for about \$1.00 each. Those most frequently encountered seem to be Eagle Stores, Newberry's, and Woolworth's.

The tear-coupon, being similar to punch cards, inhabits a twilight zone between coins and stamps. The paper scrip type can be readily understood as it was spent like cash, albeit in limited circumstances. However the "tear coupon" type is one which becomes cancelled even though perhaps over a period of time, and therefore is closer to being a philatelic item. However, it too is an item which is spent. In later writings I would like to explore this concept in more depth.

The lists below were based on the collections of El Hubbard, Frank McClung, a veteran tax token collector, and myself. The items in the first two lists have been verified. The third list is made up of reported, but not recently seen, pieces, mainly by Emil DiBella.



#### Scrip-Type Coupons

Delk's

Orange, green, pink (3)

Eagle Stores Co., Inc.

(block print type)

Bottom line 34.5mm long, green

Bottom line 31mm, green

same, "Form 280" upper left

same, but white

W. T. Grant Co.

Green

S. H. Kress & Co.

Top line 31mm, buff

Top line 26mm, yellow

Top line 29.5mm, "&" in different style, buff

Newberry's

Script-style company imprint  
(different papers exist)

Rose's

Top line 29.5mm, white

Top line 31mm, white

Statesville Postoffice Lunch

White

Wallace 5-10-25c Stores

Yellow

#### Tear-Coupon Type

S. H. Kress & Co.

Yellow

McLellen Stores Company

White

Rose's 5-10-25c Stores

Pink

Southern 5 & 10c Stores

Blue

F. W. Woolworth Co.

Blue and violet

#### Others Reported

(of either or both kinds)

Charles Stores Co., Inc.

Pink



Eagle Stores Co., Inc.  
Green?  
"script printing"  
W. R. Faucette Co.  
Green  
Ben Franklin Stores  
Blue-green  
French's Variety Stores  
Pink  
White  
F. & W. Grand Stores  
On 10c white  
On 15c white  
On 20c white  
On 25c white  
On 35c green (tear-coupons?)  
S. H. Kress & Co.  
Script printing, yellow or buff  
McLellen Stores Company  
White?  
Several different sizes apparently  
exist along with different print  
sizes. I have seen only one of these.  
Also two scrip-type, spelled "Mc-  
Lellan".  
Newberry's  
Block print, white  
Silver's Stores  
White tear-coupons?

A similar series, easily confused  
with the North Carolinas, are the  
"Sales Tax Memoranda" of West Vir-  
ginia issued in 1936. Many of the  
West Virginia pieces do not have the  
state mentioned anywhere in the mes-  
sage, but one can usually distinguish  
them by the "not exceeding 50c" part  
of the message.

\* \* \*

If any readers have collections or  
singles of North Carolina or West Vir-  
ginia pieces, I would greatly appre-  
ciate their corresponding with me as  
I am gathering information to put to-  
gether a catalog on sales tax tokens,  
scrip, receipts, and punch cards. Please  
write to:

Jerry F. Schimmel  
P.O. Box 40888  
San Francisco, CA 94140

## Newspaper Articles Tell Story of Change in MO.

The ATTS Newsletter recently called  
for assistance from members in re-  
search of sales tax token history. The  
result was a large number of news-  
paper articles concerning the imple-  
mentation and use of sales tax and  
sales tax tokens. Particularly well-doc-  
umented was the period of transition  
for the Missouri sales tax token; ar-  
ticles received illustrated the state's  
frustrations in its search for both a  
token and a token system that would  
work well. The articles reprinted here  
span an important eight years in the  
troublesome saga of the Missouri  
token.

From the August 30, 1935  
Edition of the Kansas City Star:

Defaced or altered sales tax milk bottle  
collection tokens will not be redeemed by  
the state and efforts will be made to pro-  
secute those guilty of changing the chips,  
Forrest Smith, state auditor, announced to-  
day.

Smith returned to his office today from  
Northwest Missouri and Kansas City, where  
he witnessed the inauguration this week of  
the new method of collection of the 1 per  
cent pass-on sales tax law enacted by the  
last legislature.

He was presented with a number of com-  
plaints of alteration of the tax tokens.

From St. Louis came a sample 1-mill  
piece on which has been written on the  
back, "Vote G. O. P. and end the sales tax."  
From Lexington a tax token was sent in on  
which had been printed an advertisement  
for a Lexington insurance dealer.

Smith cited a section of the new sales tax  
law making it unlawful, among other things,  
to alter the tax tokens issued by the state  
auditor's office, punishment by a prison sen-  
tence running as high as five years.

The auditor warned merchants and re-  
tailers to examine the tokens and refuse to  
accept any which had been altered or de-  
faced on the reverse side, asserting that the  
state would not redeem them and that such  
tokens would be considered of no value.

(Continued)

**From the September 15, 1937  
Edition of the Kansas City Star:**

Zinc tokens, Missouri's new medium for collection of the sales tax, were put into circulation over the state today.

Last Monday, banks here received their allotments of the 1-mill pieces and began selling them to merchants and others immediately, but the purchasers were asked not to put them in general circulation until today. That was upon request of G. H. Bates, state sales tax supervisor. However, a few were used yesterday.

**IN ALL, 32 MILLION**

In the state 27 million 1-mill tokens have been distributed, and 5 million 5-mill tokens. They have a total actual value of only \$52,000, but are expected to aid in the collection of upward of 2 million dollars a month as the state's 2 per cent sales tax.

The old "bottle cap" tokens are expected to disappear gradually through their return to Jefferson City, where they will be redeemable either in new metal tokens or by state check.

The 5-mill tokens for Jackson County were expected to arrive in Kansas City today. Walter L. Hadley, head of the Kansas City office, was waiting for notification by the American Express company of their arrival. For Kansas City and Jackson County there will be 800,000 5-mill tokens, and for the western third of Missouri, exclusive of Jackson County, there will be 980,000.

**TO HOLD PAPER TOKENS**

Due to the shortage, temporarily, of metal tokens. Mr. Hadley asked that merchants hold their bottle cap tokens in order that business may not be interfered with.

Later, the old tokens are to be bunched in packages of 100 and returned to Jefferson City. It was said today some merchants were following the practice of holding all metal tokens they received and passing out as change the old tokens, thereby avoiding collection and shipment of the old tokens.

**An Associated Press article  
Dated May 27, 1942**

Howard L. Young, president of the American Zinc institute, believes that Missouri's sales tax tokens will not be drafted in the national defense program.

Although there is demand for more zinc than is available, he said today, the shortage is far from acute and the amount of the metal used in the Missouri mill tokens is negligible.

**From the December 4, 1942  
Edition of the Kansas City Star:**

A serious shortage in circulation of mill tokens used to collect the Missouri sales tax resulted today in an appeal by Forrest Smith, state auditor, for all citizens to turn in the zinc discs as quickly as possible to aid Christmas buying.

Smith was notified today by the Office of Price Administration in Washington that no more zinc could be released for manufacture of additional tokens thus halting an order for 10 million of the mill pieces which had been placed last month.

The state auditor believes there are many million tokens out of circulation in the homes of consumers and in small stores which can be put back into use if an effort is made to bring them out of hiding.

**SEARCH IS REQUESTED**

All persons were requested to make a thorough search and turn in the tokens to the banks or stores for redemption.

A serious shortage is threatened in St. Louis where the retail stores do not have sufficient mills to make change now. The condition is not so critical in Kansas City but some of the larger stores there are having difficulty, the state auditor said. The situation will become worse if the tokens are not turned in.

The state has placed about 156 million mill pieces in circulation since the use of zinc was started several years ago. Smith estimates there should be at least 130 million of those tokens available for use of merchants if a diligent search is made.

**ZINC REQUEST REFUSED**

Refusal of the OPA to release the twenty tons of zinc needed for the latest order of 10 million tokens will make it necessary for the state to turn to some other type of mill piece. The state law now requires use of Missouri mined zinc, but the auditor will request the 1943 Legislature to make a change permitting use of any material.

Smith said it also would be impossible to obtain plastics which some states now are using, and so the state may have to return to the use of cardboard similar to the old "bottle caps" first circulated in the state. If that is done, the auditor said, the cardboard probably would be treated to prevent water damage, which ruined the old mills.

Smith protested to the OPA against the "unfair and unjustifiable bureaucratic ruling" which deprives the state of additional zinc tokens. He asserted there was a surplus of that metal now available and that its use was essential to the orderly administration of the Missouri laws.

(Continued)

An Associated Press article  
Dated December 11, 1942

Forrest Smith, state auditor, set up a bracket system for paying sales tax with pennies on some purchases today because of a growing shortage of the state's zinc sales tax tokens.

Smith explained the bracket system was temporary, intended only until authority can be obtained to make substitutes for the zinc tokens.

Under the new order, tokens would be used exclusively for purchase up to 27 cents. Beyond that amount merchants can collect the tax in pennies in the following brackets:

Twenty-eight cents through 65 cents, 1 cent tax; 66 cents through \$1.35; 2 cents tax; \$1.36 through \$1.65, 3 cents. The penny collections would increase on larger sales at the rate of 2 cents for each additional dollar.

From the December 30, 1942  
Edition of the Kansas City Star:

Some merchants and cashiers in Kansas City have misunderstood the temporary use of pennies in collecting the state sales tax which was announced just before the Christmas shopping rush, P. M. Petersen, chief auditor of the sales tax office here, said yesterday.

The temporary bracket for collecting the tax was announced December 11 by Forrest Smith, state auditor, as a means of relieving the pressure caused by a shortage of tokens.

**COMPLAINTS ARE MADE**

Several complaints that cashiers have refused to accept the correct number of mills, demanding instead payment in the "penny brackets," have been received, Petersen said.

"This is not correct," he explained, "the merchants must accept the correct number of mills for tax when the customer has them. The merchant may use the mill system exclusively if he can make change in mills."

One customer complained that he had offered 6 mills tax on a 30-cent purchase and the merchant had demanded instead the 1-cent tax allowed under the bracket system.

**IF NO MILLS ARE USED**

On purchase of more than 27 cents the merchant may, if the proper number of mills is not available, collect the tax in the following brackets:

Twenty-eight cents through 74 cents, 1 cent tax; 75 cents through \$1.24, 2 cents tax; \$1.25 through \$1.74, 3 cents; plus 1 cent on each additional 50 cents thereafter.

Only one complaint of overcharging on the tax had been received at the Merchants association. W. G. Austin, manager, said. The store involved was not a member and no action was taken, he said.

No expiration date for the temporary bracket has been set, and it is expected to remain in force until the legislature, which convenes January 6, takes some action on providing additional mill tokens. The OPA refused the state's request for additional zinc to manufacture more tokens and it is expected that new tokens will be of plastic. A return to the paper "bottle caps" may be necessary.

From an August, 1943  
Edition of the Kansas City Star:

The first shipment of plastic sales tax tokens, a million red 1-mill discs, will reach Kansas City the first of the week, G. H. Bates, superintendent of the sales tax department here, said yesterday. They will be ready for distribution to merchants September 1 in the Missouri sales tax offices in the Midland building.

Additional tokens in weekly shipments will be sent to all state district tax offices until the full 50 million, ordered by the state Legislature in July, are distributed. Green 5-mill tokens will be included in Kansas City's next shipment.

Merchants will be given only a limited supply at first. The new tokens, when fully circulated, will obviate the "bracket plan" of sales tax collection, used in many stores due to the shortage of zinc mills.

"It should be understood," Bates said, "that plastic tokens will not replace the present zinc ones, but merely supplement the supply. There are 186 million zinc tokens in circulation now."

From the September 20, 1943  
Edition of the Kansas City Star:

Merchants who have been collecting pennies on small sales instead of the correct tax in mill tokens, often incurring the displeasure of the customer, soon will be required to return to the old legal method of collection under a ruling issued by G. H. Bates, state sales tax supervisor.

Bates is sending notices to all merchants to abandon the "bracket system" September 30 and return to the exclusive use of tokens, he said.

**PLAN NEVER AUTHORIZED**

The "bracket system," never authorized by law, was put into effect last December as an aid to tax collection when the supply of zinc mills became so depleted the state

(Continued)

could not supply sufficient quantities for making change. Forrest Smith, state auditor, said it was an emergency measure.

Substitution of 50 million plastic tokens for the zinc mills, frozen by war demands for the critical metal, will enable the state to supply sufficient tax money to permit merchants to comply with the law as it is written, Bates said.

Some of the new red 1-mill plastics now are in circulation here. The 5-mill tokens are green, but few have been distributed.

#### CAUSE LEGISLATION ROW

The bracket system developed a storm of protest in the last session of the legislature. Resolutions condemned it as "a gouge upon the public." Members of the assembly said merchants made a profit on the tax, some asserting the extra money paid their rent.

From the September 2, 1943  
Edition of the Kansas City Star:

Kansas Citizens received a glimpse of plastic state sales tokens today as the first shipment of 700,000 red 1-mill pieces was distributed to merchants and business houses.

The sales tax office in the Midland building has been limiting merchants to 5,000 mills at first, to spread the supply around. More than 220,000 had been distributed by noon today. Weekly shipments are expected for the next month. Green 5-mill tokens were not included in the first shipment, due to manufacturing difficulties.

Although the zinc mill have become dull and dirty," Houston G. Hopkins, district supervisor, said. "the plastic tokens will not replace them, but supplement the present supply."

An Associated Press article  
Dated September 3, 1943

Nearly 4 million of Missouri's flashy new sales tokens made of plastic, went into circulation this week to relieve a growing shortage of the zinc tokens which the war has made impossible to get.

Only the red 1-mill tokens have been received so far, but G. H. Bates, state sales tax supervisor, said he expected to get some green 5-mill pieces in a few weeks. About 3 million more tokens will be received each week until 50 million have been obtained,

state auditor.

In fact Smith is preparing to take action against those, many of whose names, by firms and otherwise, are in his possession. While the auditor declined even to suggest the less he is conscious of the existing the term "racketeering" in mill tokens, none practice.

"I have received a number of complaints that some Kansas City merchants are refusing now to accept mill when tendered by customers in payment of the sales tax," Smith said.

"Also these merchants are telling the customers that they are not permitted to accept mills," the auditor continued. "And that they are operating under the temporary bracket system which I authorized for use last year when we could not obtain mills."

The bracket system was supplanted on October 1. Several days before, it was announced from Jefferson City that letters were being sent to all merchants notifying them of the change, mailed by G. H. Bates, state sales tax supervisor. The bracket system never was authorized by law. Fifty million plastic tax tokens were purchased to supplement the waning supply of zinc coins.

Smith noted that there now are plenty of mills of both denominations. They can be obtained through any bank or other place of recognized business long ago designated by the auditor's department.

"In those instances of merchants refusing to comply with the known regulations of the state," the auditor related, "we are going to make them pay up. We are going to start to audit a lot of people. I think that will help some folks to understand the ordinary laws, whether they like them or not."

The ATTS Newsletter would like to piece together more of the history of state and private issue sales tax tokens as documented by the news articles of those days. If you have any newspaper articles (photocopies will certainly suffice) concerning any segment of sales tax token history, please send them to:

ATTS Editorial Office  
607 North Orange Avenue  
Azusa, CA 91702

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There's a petroleum shortage, a paper shortage, and a STT article shortage. Send your article to the ATTS Newsletter and end the crisis.

From the December 16, 1943  
Edition of the Kansas City Star:

Merchants who refused to accept sales tax tokens tonight came in for a sharp rap and threats of prosecution by Forrest Smith,

## Welcome, New Members

ATTS Secretary Charles L. Carter reports that fifteen new membership applications were received since the last newsletter publication. We extend a sincere (although belated) welcome to the following individuals:

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 180 Robert Lubetkin, 3660 Grand, Des Moines, IA 50312                                  | (Secretary)   |
| 181 L. D. Sims, Jr., 752 S. Saltpond, Marshall, MO 65340                               | (Bates)       |
| 182 Garry Avery, P.O. Box 606, Marshall, MO 65340                                      | (Bates)       |
| 183 Melvin Carmichael, 4041 Delaware Ave., Klamath Falls,<br>OR 97601                  | (Schimmel)    |
| 184 Eric C. Foote, Jr., 649 Fairway Dr., Glenview, Ill. 60025                          | (Secretary)   |
| 185 Steven C. Turen, P.O. Box 16256, San Diego, CA 92116                               | (Newsletter)  |
| 186 Mrs. Wm. D. Fisher, 4063 Doabe St., Ventura, CA 93003                              | (Secretary)   |
| 187 Ronald Lang, 8345 S. Moody, Oak Lawn, IL 60459                                     | (Bates)       |
| 188 Albert L. Albright, 300 N.E. 91st, Seattle, WA 98115                               | (Pfefferkorn) |
| 189 Wm. L. Hamilton, 908 West Ave., Fulton, MO 65251                                   | (Bates)       |
| 190 Christopher Brunel, Token Corresponding Society,<br>London, WC4-6XX, Great Britain | (Schimmel)    |
| 191 Eldon Newman, Ballwin, MO  | (Bates)       |
| 192 Robert C. Kneper, 401 Fernhill Lane, Anaheim, CA 92807                             | (Schimmel)    |
| 193 R. W. Halteman, Kirkwood, MO   | (Bates)       |
| 194 Susanna Lewis, 184 Saint Johns Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217                           | (Newsletter)  |

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 55 E. J. Schmid, 7005 Skyles Way, Apt. T-1, Springfield, VA 22151  
56 Wisnton L. Tillery, 217 Upton St., Rockville, MD 20850  
8 Stephen Bezark, P.O. Box 541, Beverly Shores, IN 46301  
119 L. D. Heath, 1865 East 5725 South, Ogden, UT 84403

## More Tax Token Tangents



Member Art Wielbacker sends in this photo (made by Syd Joseph) of the Tax-Payers Congress medal. The bronze medal is 31mm in diameter and was issued in 1909. The inscriptions are as follows:

Obv.: Tax-payers Congress/organized/  
November 1908/New York/(two  
standing figures)/we/pay/the/bills/  
Complete impartial representation/  
Copyright 1908.

Rev.: Compliments Record and Guide  
founded 1896/Real Estate/Board of  
Brokers/City of New York Inc./Or-  
ganized 1896/Inc. 1908/13th An-  
nual Dinner Feb. 17, 09.

When asked about the medal, Jerry Schimmel noted "... while this medal was more likely issued because of some property tax rather than a sales tax, it should be of interest since it is distantly related to the collecting of tax items. The reason that it is probably not a sales tax item is that sales taxes did not become a public issue until the Great Depression, the first sales tax coming into being in 1932-33."

(Continued)

## Token Tangents (cont'd.)



Pictured here is a rendering of an item made from a rubbing sent in by Russell Moyer of Iowa. He comments:

"I'm sending a rubbing of a tax thing. Don't know what kind of tax. Have you any idea?"

Jerry Schimmel comments, "The item looks like it has something to do with a railroad so I looked up U.S. railroad lines in my 1952 Commercial Atlas, but there was none having a name anything like the initials on the check. It is probably not sales tax since, like the Tax-Payers' Congress medal, it was made too early for the debate over sales taxes of the Great Depression. The fact that the probable railroad is not in my commercial atlas, doesn't mean anything at all since the hypothetical RR may have gone out of business or been bought out by a larger one. It would certainly be interesting to know about this one."

## British Interested in STT's

On his recent trip to London Jerry Schimmel, President of ATTS, was interviewed by Mr. Christopher Brunel of the Token Corresponding Society in Great Britain. Mr. Brunel used Jerry's visit to get as much information as possible about U.S. Sales Tax Tokens and ATTS, which material he hopes to publish in some British numismatic journal. Jerry donated to the British group a copy of J. W. Baum's recent booklet *A Primer of American Exonumia* which includes a discussion of Sales Tax Tokens among other collecting fields (Mr. Baum is a member of ATTS). Brunel also thought that he might try to review Baum's booklet for one of the British journals, probably the *Token Corresponding Society Bulletin*. Mr. Brunel also joined ATTS during the interview, making ATTS now an intercontinental organization.

Apparently U.S. sales tax tokens are scarce in Britain and so collectors there usually pay from \$1.25 (50p) to \$2.50 (Z 1.) for some of the circulated common pieces. If Jerry's information gets into print over there it encourages collectors not to pay more than 10c (4p) for the really common ones. So far no British tax tokens have showed up. Britishers have a "Value Added Tax" which is national, but so far no tokens to accompany it.

## Trading Post

One free ad per member every-other issue  
Twenty-five word limit.

Have Different Tax Tokens that I will trade for Civil War Tokens. Gary Phiper,  
92 Baker Street, Johnson City, NY 13790.

Wanted to buy or trade for state issue or Illinois 1/4c provisional STT's. Write  
George Van Trump, P.O. Box 656, Edgemont Branch, Golden, CO 80401.

Trade Litchfield 1/4c for another 1/4c Ill. provisional token. Trade 10 different  
parking or transportation tokens for same amount plus SAE. Joe Studebaker,  
2614 Legare St., Beaufort, SC 29902.

Soap Tokens wanted by collector. Please send descriptions and prices to Robert  
Lubetkin, 3660 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50312.

# A.T.T.S. Newsletter

The Official Journal Of  
THE AMERICAN TAX TOKEN SOCIETY  
ANA C-69092 TAMS 2334

Volume 3, Number 5

November-December 1973

## BATES HEADS EXHIBIT AWARDS PROGRAM

The ATTS Board of Directors has established a tri-level program of awards for members who exhibit sales tax items at coin and stamp shows. Jerry Bates, who originated the idea, was named Awards Chairman and will be in charge of receiving and processing awards applications. Three classifications of awards are available to ATTS members:

- 1) **PRESIDENT'S MERIT OF EXHIBIT AWARD:** a red ribbon with gold printing which is awarded for displaying STT items at a local show;
- 2) **EXECUTIVE BOARD MERIT OF EXHIBIT AWARD:** a blue ribbon with gold printing awarded for displaying STT items at a state or regional show;
- 3) **NATIONAL MERIT OF EXHIBIT AWARD:** a white ribbon with gold printing awarded for displaying STT items at a national show or program.

In order to qualify for any of the three awards ATTS members should:

- a) be in good standing;
- b) apply to the Awards Chairman to include the following information on an application form - name, address, and membership number; date and name of show; signature of the show chairman attesting to the fact of the exhibit.

APPLICATIONS FOR ATTS AWARDS SHOULD BE SENT TO: Jerry Bates, ATTS Awards Chairman, P.O. Box 777, St. Charles, MO 63301 (Forms are also available from the same source).



## NEWSLETTER EDITOR RESIGNS!

Ernie Altvater, Editor of ATTS Newsletter since its inception in 1971, announced that he is unable to carry on due to professional and familial duties. Ernie has donated his time, the paper, and printing of ATTS Newsletter for the whole period of his tenure, thus leaving money available to ATTS members for other ATTS projects. Ernie has always felt very strongly in favor of collectors and in seeking advantages for them and in using Society funds in their behalf.

He is succeeded at least temporarily by Jerry Schimmel, the Society President, until further plans can be made by the Board of Directors. Are there any budding Editors in the audience?

## Sales Tax Tokens: Illegal Coinage?

by Ernie Altvater

Jerry Bates' series of articles about sales tax tokens ("Sales Tax Tokens: An Update") which appeared in *Coin Digest*, sparked a good deal of interest in STT's among Ill. N. A. members. Jerry's articles dealt primarily with the types of STT's—private issues, provisional issues, and state issues—as well as the forerunner tokens. One area which the articles did not go into is the legal history of sales tax tokens.

As Jerry pointed out, STT's were created first by merchants who sought to avoid the anger of their customers by giving change in sales tax transactions amounting to less than a cent, and later by states wishing to assure that only the correct amount of sales tax was collected.

In effect, these tokens broke a cent into smaller units (usually mills) and could be considered fractions of a cent. But were they money—did they actually constitute fractional coinage? This was a question raised by many during the 1930's, the time when many states were passing sales tax laws and beginning to issue tax tokens or script.

In 1935, Illinois issued an aluminum dime-size "Retailers' Occupation Tax" token with a face value of 1½ mills. The tax represented by these tokens had already had its day in court, the Illinois courts ruling that a "sales tax" would be unconstitutional in that state; the state then switched to the "Retailers' Occupation Tax," assessed against the sales of Illinois retailers, who in turn added it to the individual retail transactions, "to cover additional costs of doing business in the state of Illinois." But that was only the beginning of the tax's legal problems.

Not long afterwards, T. J. Collidge, Acting Secretary of the Treasury, sent the following telegram to the Illinois Director of Finance: ". . . The Treasury experts . . . have arrived at the conclusion that it would be unlawful for any agency other than the federal government to issue pieces or tokens to make change in connection with its sales tax." The Treasury Department also objected to the round tax tokens of Illinois on the grounds that they resembled U.S. money and that the term "Mills" was a direct reference to U.S. money. (Congress passed a law in 1786 which in part stated, "MILLS, the lowest money of account, of which 1000 shall be equal to the federal dollar, or money unit.")

It seemed that the fate of the sales tax token was sealed. An editorial of a newspaper in Washington State (which had also issued tax tokens) stated:

"The fiasco of the state tokens received its finishing touch this week when the Treasury Department ruled that the tokens are not legal in conflict with the Constitution of the United States, which bars coinage by the state. The point was raised in this editorial column last April, before they were issued. We cannot understand how the Tax Commission could ignore the simple statement in the Constitution, even though the New Deal has not shown much regard for it." (a)

**Modern Mecha** declared:

"Start collecting sales tax tokens now, when you can form a complete collection at a cost of only a few cents. . . . With federal experts declaring that state coinage of tax tokens may be unconstitutional, the tokens may be recalled at any time." (b)

It was assumed that since the federal government would be responsible for the demise of the sales tax token, it would come to the rescue of the states by issuing fractional coinage. The August, 1935, issue of *The Numismatist* reported,

"On July 22 the President directed Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, to ask Congress to pass a bill authorizing the striking of two new coins of the denominations of one-half cent and one-tenth of a cent, or one and five mills. . . . It is understood officials will ask for a copper coin for the half-cent, slightly smaller than the cent, and a one-mill piece of about the same size but struck in aluminum." (c)

Congress, however, "took the attitude that if the states needed such money it was up to them to provide it and refused to pass the law." (d)

The tax token, most thought, was dead. But then something happened—or didn't happen. Illinois switched from the round, dime-like tax token to a square token, and omitted the disputed "mill" inscription; and the federal government dropped its objections to the token. The federal government did not create the fractional coinage, and it did not go to court to bar the conage of tax tokens by states. So long as states did not make their tokens similar to U.S. coinage, and so long as the tokens would be used only for sales tax payment, the government said nothing. The states took pains to make their tokens different from U.S. coins, and several cut-outs, such as triangles, circles, crosses, and stars appeared. A 1936 announcement from Colorado was typical:

"In drawing up specifications for bids, state officials consulted federal officials and with telephone and tramway executives in order to avoid complications such as caused objections to similar tokens used in Washington State and Illinois." (e)

The tax token was to be as unique in appearance as it was in purpose. And the government seemed content. According to the General Counsel of the Treasury, over 25 years after the Illinois controversy, ". . . No case of a sales tax token circulated for use as money or carrying a legend indicating that it is redeemable as U.S. money, or in U.S. money has come to the attention of the Treasury." (f)

The controversy concerning the legality of sales tax tokens is but one of the many historical aspects of this fascinating branch of numismatics. Other aspects of STT history and study are reviewed in the bi-monthly **ATTS Newsletter**. Inquiries should be addressed to the American Tax Token Society, Charles Carter, Secretary, 721 Glencoe Street, Denver, Col. 80220.

#### FOOTNOTES

(a) "More Token Trouble," Thurston County **Independent**, July 26, 1935, reprinted in **ATTS Newsletter**, Nov.-Dec. 1972.

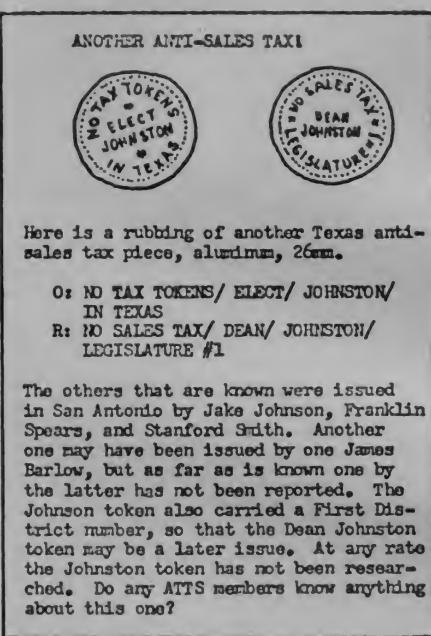
(b) "With The Collectors," **Modern Mechanix**, Jan. 1936.

(c) "Two New Coins Urged by President Roosevelt," **The Numismatist**, Aug. 1935.

ILLEGAL COINAGE? (concluded)

- (d) "Sales Taxes May Force Minting of Fractional Coins," The Pathfinder, Nov. 2, 1935.  
(e) "Fraudless Token Sought for Colo. Sales Tax Payoff," International News Service, July 26, 1935.  
(f) Quoted by George Frakes in "Were Sales Tax Tokens Legal?", ATTS Newsletter Nov-Dec 1972.

\* \* \*  
The above article first appeared in the Illinois Numismatic Ass'n Coin Digest, January 1974.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

ATTS Secretary Charles L. Carter reports the membership applications of two new collectors. We extend our welcome to the following new members:

195. Michael J. Broers, 1416-2nd St. E.E.  
Mason City, IA 50401 (McMann)  
196. R.B. Seger, 6054 So. Marshall Dr.,  
Littleton, CO 80123

Change of Address:

126. Jeffrey L. McFarland, 5th Psy.Ops.  
Bn., APO New York, NY 09046

4

TRIAL LISTING OF MISSISSIPPI,  
NEW MEXICO, AND WASHINGTON  
PLASTIC SALES TAX TOKENS

by Tom McMann

(The following list of plastic token varieties is based on the system originated by D. Wayne Johnson in 1950. See ATTS Newsletter, March-April and May-June, 1972, "Dick Johnson's Missouri Mills' Revisited." Ed.)

Mississippi:

I. 1 Mill, white

- A. Snow white, opaque  
B. Off-white, translucent  
C. Off-white (a pale yellow)

V. 5 Mills, blue

New Mexico:

I. 1 Mill, white

- A. Snow White, opaque  
B. Off-white, translucent  
C. Light Cream  
D. Heavy Dark Cream

V. 5 Mills, black

- A. black, opaque

Washington:

I. 1 Mill, green

- A. Bright Light Green, transparent  
B. Light Green, transparent  
C. Forest Green  
a. perfect  
b. rotated  
D. Light Green, translucent  
E. Blue Green, translucent  
F. Dark Green, translucent  
a. perfect  
b. rotated die  
G. Green, opaque  
H. Mottled Green  
I. Grey, slightly translucent  
a. perfect  
b. rotated die  
J. Grey, opaque

NEED DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT SALES TAX TOKENS? WANT TO KNOW THE PLACE TO GET IT? Try the ATTS Librarian, Glyn Farber, 1618 - 15th Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601